

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
S.B. 1299 PROPOSED H.D. 1
RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES.

The HHFDC opposes S.B. 1299, Proposed H.D. 1, to the extent that it caps conveyance tax revenues dedicated to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) at the lesser of 50 percent or \$38,000,000 per fiscal year.

The RHTF has been instrumental in the statewide delivery of rental housing for lower-income households. Since inception of the program, deposits to the RHTF from conveyance tax revenues and legislative appropriations have totaled \$277 million. During that period, as a result of interest earned and loan repayments, funding awards of \$295 million were made for 64 rental projects totaling 5,205 units.

We are faced with a projected need for approximately 27,000 affordable rental housing units over the next 6 years, as specified below. Placing a cap on the conveyance tax revenues that are dedicated to the RHTF could hinder our ability to address this need.

Projected Affordable Rental Housing Need, 2014-2020					
% Median Income	Honolulu	Maui	Hawaii	Kauai	State
30%	4,076	1,377	2,355	330	8,138
50%	3,808	1,402	2,017	221	7,448
60%	2,415	748	1,003	462	4,629
80%	3,710	1,330	1,657	312	7,009
Total	14,008	4,857	7,033	1,325	27,224
Source: Ricky Cassiday, Rental Housing Study, 12/30/14					

HHFDC submits an annual RHTF report to the State Legislature pursuant to section 201H-202(f), HRS. The report describes the proposals received, projects funded, efforts taken to develop projects with units targeted for persons and families with incomes at or below 30 per cent of the median family income, and any barriers to developing housing for this target group. We believe the annual reporting helps to address the need for transparency in the use of the conveyance tax revenues that are deposited into the RHTF.

However, if the Committee is inclined to pass S.B. 1299, Proposed H.D. 1, HHFDC requests that you set conveyance tax collections for the RHTF at 50 per cent or \$38 million, whichever is less (pursuant to S.B. 1299, Proposed H.D. 1), and add a sunset date of June 30, 2017, for the \$38 million cap to allow for the impacts of the measure to be assessed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: CONVEYANCE, Disposition of revenue

BILL NUMBER: SB 1299, Proposed HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Finance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This bill would establish maximum dollar amounts of conveyance tax revenues to be deposited into each of the designated funds. If the legislature deems these program areas a priority, then a direct appropriation for these programs would increase transparency and accountability.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 247-7 to provide that conveyance tax revenue shall be distributed in each fiscal year as follows: (1) ten percent or **\$6.8 million**, whichever is less, shall be paid into the land conservation fund; (2) fifty percent or **\$38 million**, whichever is less, shall be paid into the rental housing trust fund; and (3) repeal the distribution to the natural area reserve fund.

Appropriates general funds on July 1, 2015 for fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2017 for various program areas previously funded by conveyance tax revenues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure would establish maximum dollar amounts of conveyance tax revenues to be distributed to the various special funds now being fed. It also replaces the distribution to the natural area reserve fund with appropriations to various programs previously funded by the earmarking of conveyance tax revenue.

This bill marks a departure from the usual practice of depending more and more on special funds and on feeding those funds with earmarked taxes. This is a step in the right direction.

As with any earmarking of revenues, the legislature will be giving their stamp of approval for each of the programs into which the conveyance tax monies are diverted into these funds without any legislative intervention, expenses from the funds largely avoid legislative scrutiny, and the effectiveness of the programs funded becomes harder to ascertain. It is also difficult to determine whether the fund has too little or too much revenue.

The conveyance tax is one of the least dependable sources upon which to rely for funding with collections rising and falling with the fortunes of the real estate market. Any amount collected under this tax will depend on activity in the real estate market. As the housing market slows down, revenues may not be sufficient to meet the expectations of the fund. If the conveyance tax revenues are not sufficient or another “important” program needs funding, will the conveyance tax rates need to be “adjusted” to generate even more revenue?

If the legislature deems the programs and purposes funded by conveyance tax revenues to be a high priority, then it should maintain the accountability for these funds by appropriating the funds as it does

with other programs. Earmarking revenues merely absolves elected officials from setting priorities. If the money were appropriated, lawmakers could then evaluate the real or actual needs of each particular program.

The repeal of the earmarking of conveyance tax revenues to the natural area reserve fund is a start to making such program area more transparent and will promote accountability as lawmakers will be able to ensure the various program areas have sufficient funds through appropriations.

Digested 4/7/15

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Commenting on S.B. 1299 Proposed HD1 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00PM, Room 308

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy strongly opposes Section 3 of the proposed S.B. 1299 HD1 that would repeal more than twenty years of effective and leveraged funding to the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve (NAR) Fund. We encourage the Legislature instead to exercise its annual budgeting authorities—including agency reporting requirements, spending ceilings and spending directives in the budget itself—rather than repealing the conveyance tax authorization and allocation to the NAR Fund.

The development and sale of real estate helps drive Hawaii's economy, but it also puts pressure on our natural resources like fresh water. Several locations in the state have experienced ongoing drought, climate change is likely to produce more severe storms but overall less rainfall. The UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. Fresh water is not a limitless resource that can forever be tapped to support our developed real estate. It makes sense to spend a portion of conveyance tax revenue on protecting forests which are the source of all our fresh water. **The Legislature recognized this clear nexus in Act 156 (HB 1308 CD1, 2005), stating:**

"The legislature has also determined that there is a clear nexus between the source of the conveyance tax and providing funding for watershed protection and other natural resource preservation programs. The development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas."

While we appreciate the Committee's proposed substitution of general funds for NAR Fund programs, we respectfully disagree that this will somehow produce improved oversight and transparency. We believe there is and can continue to be just as much reporting and oversight of DLNR's non-general funds as there is for its general funds allocations from the Legislature. The conveyance tax allocation to the NAR Fund was established more than 20 years ago for the specific reason that given all the demands on general funds, the Legislature is always challenged in providing the level and consistency of funding needed to support the state's forest and watershed resources, which is becoming even more essential in the face of climate change.

We do appreciate and support the proposed funding allocations in Sections 7 through 17 of the proposed bill for invasive species, wildfire response, humpback whale sanctuary management, conservation law enforcement, and Kaho'olawe and encourage the Committee to incorporate these into the budget bill HB 500.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

KAHOʻOLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

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Executive Director

Testimony of MICHAEL K. NAHOʻOPTI Executive Director

Before the House Committee on

FINANCE

Wednesday, April 8, 2015
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of SENATE BILL 1299 PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES

Senate Bill 1299 HD 1 Proposed establishes maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed among certain non-general funds from the conveyance tax. Retains provision that the general fund receive the remainder after distribution. The Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports the proposed amendment that includes funding for the continued restoration of Kahoʻolawe.

SB 1299 HD1 Proposed includes a provision to appropriate out of the general revenue of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for LNR – natural and physical environment (LNR906) for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. This measure is a critical part of the total financial package necessary to keeping the Kahoʻolawe Base Camp operating, public access to the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve open and continuing the restoration of the once barren island.

As stated in the Federally-mandated Kahoʻolawe Island Conveyance Commission (KICC) final report to Congress in 1993, “in the short term, federal funds will provide the bulk of the program support for specific soil conservation projects and related activities. In the longer term, however, state revenues will be needed to continue and enhance those activities initiated with federal funds.” For the past 20 years, the initial Federal funding has allowed the KIRC to establish many of its innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and traditional knowledge, provide a cultural approach of respect and connectivity to the environment, and integrate ancient and modern resource management techniques. This measure is critical to the KIRC as these trust funds will run out by 2016

With 25% of the island still uncleared of unexploded ordnance and only 10% cleared for intensive use, the KIRC's continuing presence on Kaho'olawe is needed to ensure the protection of the general public. Without funding, the KIRC will have to terminate on-island operations and close the doors to public access to Kaho'olawe.

The funding being sought in this measure is to provide a bridge to allow the KIRC to develop community-wide partnerships, establish collaborative enterprises with other state and federal government entities, and launch long-term revenue generation and sustainable funding opportunities supporting the future of Kaho'olawe. The passage of this measure is critical to ensure that the struggle, hard work, dedication and lives given to the island will not be wasted, but forms the foundation for Kaho'olawe's role as the spiritual, cultural and physical *piko* (center) of the people of Hawai'i.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: labbott@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyman L. Abbott	Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB 1299 to provide further funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. In this way, we can continue planting native plants and reduce soil erosion which is impacting the near-shore ocean reef environment. Thank you, Lyman L. Abbott

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 308**

Offering comments in regards to SB1299 Proposed HD1, Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues.

Thank you for the opportunity to respectfully offer comments in regards to the Proposed HD1 of SB1299, which establishes maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed from the conveyance tax into the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) and other special funds. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including homeless individuals and families.

PHOCUSED respects your committee's close examination of non-general funds, and we understand the very difficult job you have to balance competing needs across the State. However, we also recognize the critical need to develop affordable rental housing statewide. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Hawaii has the 2nd highest rate of homelessness per capita in the nation. To address this, our community needs to adopt policies that will support the transition of homeless households to permanent, stable housing. The RHTF is a critical piece of Hawaii's strategy to end homelessness, and is the only financing mechanism for affordable rental housing that mandates the development of units for the very poor (i.e. households at 30% of Area Median Income or below).

As a membership organization for health and human service providers, PHOCUSED also recognizes the impact that lack of housing has on other social issues – such as child development, education, and health. Further, we have observed a growing momentum to end homelessness and develop truly affordable housing, which has not existed in prior years. Our community needs to take advantage of this growing momentum and now is the time to maximize every resource for housing at our disposal – specifically including the RHTF, for which there is always far greater demand than there are funds available.ⁱ

If this bill proceeds further, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to include a two year sunset date of June 30, 2017 for the \$38 million cap, so that the impacts of the dollar cap can be evaluated.

Once again, PHOCUSED respectfully submits our comments in regards to SB1299. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

ⁱ In 2013, the RHTF received over \$70.4 million in requests, and available funds could only support a fraction of this demand.

April 8, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair

House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 1299, Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues

HEARING: Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,400 members. HAR **supports the intent of S.B.1299**, which establishes maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed among certain non-general funds from the conveyance tax and amends the list of non-general funds that receive distributions from the conveyance tax.

The Conveyance Tax applies to the conveyance of multi-family rentals, land for residential subdivisions, mixed-income and multi-use properties, commercial properties, resort properties, and agricultural lands, as well as condominium and single-family homes. It applies whether or not a property is sold at a gain or a loss.

In 2005, the Conveyance Tax was increased on a tiered scale on 1) the sale of realty for all transfers or conveyance of realty or any interest (i.e. commercial, timeshare, agricultural, industrial, etc. and condominium or single-family residences for which the purchaser is eligible for a county homeowner's exemption); and 2) the sale of a condominium or single family residence for which the purchaser is ineligible for a county homeowner's exemption.

In 2009, the Legislature once again increased the Conveyance Tax on 1) the sale of realty from 30 cents per \$100 (.30%) for properties over \$1,000,000 to a maximum of \$1.00 (1%) per \$100 for properties over \$10,000,000 -- an increase of over 333%, and 2) the sale of a property ineligible for a county homeowner exemption from 30 cents per \$100 to \$1.25 per \$100 (1.25%) -- an increase of over 416.66%.

The problem linking funding to the Conveyance tax is that when the real estate market is down, there are not enough funds to pay for the programs and special funds it covers. Then, the Conveyance Tax would need to be increased to cover the programs. However, when the market is up, there are excess funds over and above the program's needs. This becomes a cyclical issue, and unreliable in forecasting these program's needs.

In July 2012, the Auditor of the State of Hawaii prepared Report No. 12-04: “Study of the Transfer of Non-General Funds to the General Fund.” The Auditor examined issues relating to the establishment and continuance of special and revolving funds in the State. The Auditor used the statutory criteria for establishment and continuance of special and revolving funds, under Sections 37-2.3 and 37-52.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”). Of those reviewed, the Auditor determined that the Land Conservation Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund did not qualify for continuance, both of which are funded by the Conveyance Tax.

The Conveyance Tax was originally created to cover administrative costs of recording real estate transactions for which there is a clear nexus. **We believe the allocation structure of the Conveyance Tax should benefit those programs and initiatives where there is a clear linkage such as the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF).**

As such, HAR respectfully recommends that both the disposition of conveyance tax to the RHTF and its cap of \$38 million be increased.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

COMMENTS FOR SB 1299, Proposed HD1: RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Advocacy Committee, Partners in Care

Hearing: **Wednesday, April 8, 2015; 2:00 PM; Conference Room 308**

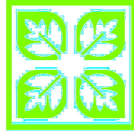
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **to provide comments on** SB 1299, proposed HD1, which would establish a maximum dollar amount that shall be distributed from the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund, along with other amendments to the distribution of the conveyance tax. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Partners in Care.

Partners in Care promotes the construction of affordable rental housing as a critical long term solution to homelessness. All in our community are impacted by homelessness and the severe lack of affordable housing. We are concerned that the Proposed Cap of \$38 million will lead to a reduction in the potential production of more affordable rentals.

Construction costs are projected to rise by 12% per year which would result in almost a 25% increase in just 2 years to construct new affordable rental projects. More bang for the buck can result from funding the Rental Housing Trust Fund now. Building affordable housing sooner rather than later is greatly needed. For every 10 extremely low-income families, only 3 units are available and affordable. Hawaii has the most expensive housing in the country, at more than twice the national average. All this leads to increased homelessness. Hawaii unfortunately has the #1 Rate of Homelessness among the US states. Funding the Rental Housing Trust Fund can help to reduce and prevent homelessness and to provide a legacy for the people of Hawaii.

We know you have to weigh the competing needs of many State priorities. If your Committee decides that for transparency and other reasons, that a cap is needed for the Rental Housing Trust Fund, **we request that a Sunset Date of 6/30/17 be added for the cap on proceeds from the conveyance tax, to allow for the impacts of this cap to be assessed.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356, or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



COMMENTS FOR SB 1299, Proposed HD1: RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Social Policy Director, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: **Wednesday, April 8, 2015; 2:00 PM; Conference Room 308**

Thank you for the opportunity **to provide comments on** SB 1299, proposed HD1, which would establish a maximum dollar amount that shall be distributed from the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund, along with other amendments to the distribution of the conveyance tax.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable people in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working on housing issues. One of our highest priorities is to create more affordable rental housing to help end homelessness.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is concerned about the impact of a proposed cap of \$38 million on conveyance tax revenues to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF). Data on Hawaii's housing situation indicates that our housing crisis will only worsen over the next few years. The 2014 Housing Study projects that over 27,000 affordable rental units are needed for low income families by 2020, double the number projected by the 2011 study (13,000 units needed). Another recent State study cited a 12% annual construction escalation factor (in a study commissioned in late 2014 by the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS)).

We are very concerned the cap will result in a reduction in the number of units that will be produced over the next 5 years. Right now there is great synergy to build more affordable rentals with the City and State's TOD initiatives, interest in micro units and other lower cost options. Now is not the time to put a brake on these initiatives. We cannot lose this opportunity to make a huge difference in our inventory of affordable units, on ending homelessness, and on the lives of hundreds of people.

We understand that you have the tough job of balancing needs across the State. If your Committee decides that a cap is needed for the Rental Housing Trust Fund, **we request that a Sunset Date of 6/30/17 be added for the cap on proceeds from the conveyance tax, to allow for the impact of the cap to be assessed before it is extended or discontinued.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 527-4810 or trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



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Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

Testimony of Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier, Commenting on S.B. 1299 Proposed HD1 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00PM, Room 308

Aloha,

Please accept my testimony supporting the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and opposing Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports such as the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve.

Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve one of the wettest spots on planet earth averaging 400 inches of rain (double the amount of the Amazon) and located at the summit of Mauna Kahalawai (West Maui Mountains) has been with the DLNR Natural Area Partnership program consistently since 1988. Pu'u Kukui Watershed is a vital source of fresh water for the West Maui community residents, agriculturalist, hotels and home to many native and rare species. It has been the stable and continuous funding with the DLNR's Natural Area Partnership program that has kept this natural resource spanning over 8,600 acres in great condition and being able to fence and protect it from various threats such as ungulates. Management of the preserve would be severely affected with a massive reduction in current protection efforts of fencing, ungulate and weed management, rare species protection, erosion mitigation and water recharge sustainability with the total loss of PKW staff.

It is with my humble request that you take this testimony in consideration so that you don't undo decades of hard work in a single stroke of the pen. Even if years later funding was to be re-established the damage would be so severe by ungulates and weeds altering pristine areas that it would be very difficult to nearly impossible to restore. This lack of active management would result in the loss of native habitats capturing water, increase erosion and killing stream life and coral reefs and reducing the water availability. As the impact of climate change is upon us, we should be providing additional funding and protection of our water resources for a sustainable future not the other way around. Please keep the conveyance tax funding to support DLNR's efforts and programs.

Me Ke aloha a me Ka Noi ha'aha'a

Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier
Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve Manager



Princeville Utilities Company, Inc.

The Testimony of Ian Kagimoto
Commenting on S.B. 1299 RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00 PM, Room 308

Princeville Utilities is a member of the Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA) and relies on a pristine watershed to supply the groundwater necessary to meet our potable water needs.

The KWA opposes the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund as proposed in S.B. 1299. The NAR Fund currently receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. This has provided a consistent level of state general funds needed to care for our critical native forest and watershed resources.

Please do not make any changes to the long-standing dedicated funding provided to the Natural Area Reserve Fund.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Ian Kagimoto, PE
Manager
Princeville Utilities Company Inc.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Finance
Hearing: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 2 PM, Room 308

Support and Opposition to SB 1299 HD 1 Relating to the Disposition of Tax Revenues

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports most of SB 1299 HD1 and opposes parts of this bill. Specifically, we **support** general funds for Department of Land and Natural Resources programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1. However, we strongly and **oppose** the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

Eliminating the NAR Fund undo more than 20 years of dedicated funding to the NAR Fund. It is a huge loss and a significant step backwards in protecting our resources for future generations. The people worked very hard for many years to secure dedicated funding for the ceded land reserves and other environmental programs covered by the NAR Fund.

Even though there is some general funding proposed for the programs covered by the NAR Fund, it would be approximately \$7 million less than what the DLNR and the Administration requested.

By statute, the NAR Fund receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System, including the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve at the summit. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, Watershed Partnerships, rare and endangered species protection, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps.

Historically, the legislature was unable or unwilling to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for our resources. The NAR Fund was created in the 1990s and initially included funding for conservation on private land. In 2005, after years of hard work and strong grassroots support, the ceded land reserves were included in the programs benefiting from dedicated funding from the NAR Fund.

Regarding legislative procedure, the content of the proposed HD 1 should have been heard by subject committees in both houses for elimination of dedicated funding for such important programs.

Please kokua. Do not eliminate dedicated funding for the NAR Fund. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Marjorie Ziegler

*Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization
dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations.*

*Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in
Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists,
government agencies, and elected officials.*

*Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy,
CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.*

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Commenting on SB 1299 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues
House Committee on Finance
Scheduled for Hearing Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00 PM, Room 308

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit law firm created to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals and families in Hawai'i on legal and policy issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients access to the resources and fair treatment they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1299 relating to disposition of tax revenues. Hawai'i Appleseed would like to offer comments regarding SB 1299's proposed \$38 million cap on conveyance tax distributions to the Rental Housing Trust Fund. While we are cognizant of the state's need to balance a number of important fiscal demands, we believe that the magnitude of Hawai'i's affordable housing crisis requires that funds for affordable housing remain a top priority. Should the Legislature decide to cap the RHTF at a dollar amount, we respectfully request that the Committees insert a **sunset date** for two years after the cap is implemented.

First, we would like to express our appreciation for the Legislature's longtime commitment to funding affordable housing, including the Rental Housing Trust Fund. We are particularly grateful for last session's restoration of the percentage of conveyance tax revenues going to the RHTF to 50 percent. The Rental Housing Trust Fund is a major tool for the creation of affordable housing and has a long record of success, funding over 5,000 units since its creation, and functions as an economic driver.

As advocates for a variety of issues affecting low-income people, we also acknowledge the state's need to fund many other important programs that help these same populations. However, without affordable, stable, and decent housing, these individuals and families will continue to face barriers to their financial self-sufficiency. Almost 80 percent of extremely low-income households paying more than *half* of their income toward housing, an immense strain on their budgets. The consequences of their inability to make ends meet include worse health and educational outcomes, as well as the most visible consequence, homelessness. The RHTF plays a critical role in helping this population—half of people living in RHTF-subsidized units are at 30 percent or less of the area median income.

Should the Legislature feel that a cap is the most appropriate means to manage RHTF funding, we respectfully request that the Committees consider **amending SB 1299 by inserting a sunset date of two years for any caps** on the dollar amount going toward the RHTF. This aligns with the fiscal policy concern related to earmarked funds—the state must allocate funds toward many important issues, and these needs can vary depending on the economic climate, policy priorities, and any other number of changes. Requiring that the Legislature revisit any caps will ensure that the needs of the RHTF are also fully considered. In addition to accounting for changes in projected conveyance tax revenues and housing needs, any set dollar amount will lose ground due to inflation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on SB 1299. We respectfully urge you to continue distributing the full 50 percent of conveyance tax revenues to the Rental Housing Trust Fund or insert a sunset to help meet the state's urgent need for affordable rental housing.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 2:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kiscmgr@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bill lucey	kauai invasive species committee	Support	No

Comments: KISC supports SB1299 but opposes Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund

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Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 3:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: potterrosina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosina Potter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Rosina Potter, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: knewhous@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberley Newhouse	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Kimberley Kehaulani Newhouse, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. Please continue to support the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commssion and the restoration of our island! It is the State's kuleana. The funding included for the KIRC in the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 could help the KIRC not only in its efforts to conserve the unique resources of the Reserve but also help educate the public in the importance of its mission. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 in order to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique ex perience on the island of Kaho`olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funds for Kaho`olawe. As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system. Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho`olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work. Kaho`olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 3:56 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Kelly McHugh, strongly support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The funding included for the KIRC in the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 could help the KIRC not only in its efforts to conserve the unique resources of the Reserve but also help educate the public in the importance of its mission.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jen_fordyce@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Fordyce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Jen Fordyce, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaonohilee@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol-Marie K. Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure with regard to its funding the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission in the amount of \$1,500,000 for 2015-2016 and \$1,500,000 for 2016-2017. Mahalo for your support for the KIRC during this legislative session. Me ke aloha maluhia, Ka`onohi

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Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mei2818128@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mei Mailou-Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Mei Mailou-Santos, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The funding included for the KIRC in the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 could help the KIRC not only in its efforts to conserve the unique resources of the Reserve but also help educate the public in the importance of its mission.

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finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:16 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: LINDSEYCRL@AOL.COM
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles R. Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: 2kahaualea@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kate.rourke@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katy Rourke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Katy Rourke, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 8:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mreyesecology@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Reyes	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I, Michael Reyes, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 7:42 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: chefg@maui.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel J. Southmayd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:27 AM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: bradandmyra@gmail.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Keitt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Brad Keitt, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. ... The funding included for the KIRC in the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 could help the KIRC not only in its efforts to conserve the unique resources of the Reserve but also help educate the public in the importance of its mission. ... Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 in order to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. ... As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho`olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funds for Kaho`olawe. ... As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system. ... Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho`olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work. ... Kaho`olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299.

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finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:23 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: billbruch@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Bruch	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Very Important to keep this project going !

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finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 6:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: anelamarie@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jvanderveur@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Vander Veur	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please provide Kaho'olawe with the funding needed to ensure the proper management and restoration of this incredible island.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:55 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lindseycrl@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles R. Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support SB1299. We need continued financial support for our Aina Kahoolawe. It is important to pass on the internal mana that still exist for all races and future generations.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 9:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: theatacamakid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Duffy	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: While the bill has some excellent parts to it, repealing the 25% of conveyance tax revenue dedicated to the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund (NAR Fund) would be something that future generations would regret. The conveyance tax for 20 years had provided a stable and predictable income stream to maintain the NAR system which holds the crown jewels of Hawaii's aina. There is an Ethiopian saying I learned in childhood: "One is born, one dies; the land increases." Caring for the land is a responsibility for centuries and generations and the land will suffer if it once again becomes subject to the year-to-year vicissitudes of funding.

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Testimony of Susan Nalani Ching Harbin

**Commenting on S.B. 1299 Proposed HD1 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues
House Committee on Finance**

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00PM, Room 308

This testimony is in **support** of the the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and **in opposition** to Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

The NAR Fund is the primary source of funding for the State Natural Area Reserves and Forests Reserves, Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, Watershed Partnerships, rare species protection, and the Youth Conservation Corps. More than 20 years ago, the dedicated funding for these programs was secured because historically the legislature was unable to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for critical native forest and watershed resources.

Realizing that this bill supports some other good programs (HISC, wildfire response, DOCARE, Kahoolawe, etc.) however, if more money is needed for these other programs please do not make it at the expense of Hawaii's most pristine and intact native ecosystems on Public Lands!!

Mahalo,

Susan Nalani Ching Harbin;
M.S. Botanical Sciences and Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology
2551 Waimano Hm. Rd, Rm 202
Pearl City, HI 96782
susanchi@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:04 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jamie_bruch@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kaho`olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299.

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lwhite@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FIN-Jo

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kgapero@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuiokalani L. Gapero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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I, Terri Gavagan, support SB1299.

It is imperative that **this bill be approved with the HD1 amendment with funding for the KIRC .**

This funding is important for future generations of Hawai'i's people. The young people who have had the opportunity to do restoration work on the island have been inspired by it to pursue careers in marine biology, restoration, and Hawaiian Studies as well as other fields with the desire to not only continue the restoration work on Kaho'olawe and the continuation of the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture but to work in other areas of Hawai'i. My daughter is one such young person. She intends to pursue both marine biology and astronomy with the goal of being a marine biologist in the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve in order to protect the ocean life within it.

As a taxpayer, I realize that there are many areas which need the financial resources for the State. However, I believe that when the State of Hawaii accepted the Reserve from the Navy it took on the responsibility for the Reserve, including financial responsibility. The Reserve has received no state funding except for capital improvement projects since its inception. The annual budget of \$2.7 million is quite small when one considers that the staff of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission provides all the services that the counties and State provide on the other islands--safety, water, refuse, electricity, etc.

Again, I ask you to fulfill the State's responsibility to care for the Reserve until such time as a Native Hawaiian sovereign entity is recognized.

Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:44 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: phigashino@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul K Higashino	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB11299, the kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission must continue the work restoring the island for the people of Hawaii.

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finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 11:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: PelesGrrl@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trinette Furtado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 11:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: soysprout@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia King	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 BUT, I oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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Testimony for SB 1299 Proposed HD1

I am writing to support the allocation of general funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and to oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

For the past 18 years I have been hiking to remote parts of the island to photograph the native plants and animals of the Hawaiian Islands. I have a blog – Hawaiian Forest. Com – which documents some of the rarest and most endangered species on the planet. In 2013, I was appointed to the State of Hawaii's Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission which oversees issues relating to the most biologically sensitive and geologically interesting lands owned by the State of Hawaii.

Almost daily we hear in the national media that California is in a state of emergency with only one year's water supply left. While the situation is not nearly as dire in Hawaii, researchers at the University of Hawaii have determined that the Hawaiian Islands have been undergoing a drying trend since 1978.

Less rainfall expected for the Hawaiian Islands according to scientists

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=5724>

With less rainfall anticipated in the coming decades, the ability of the land to capture and retain water becomes increasingly important. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply has conducted long term studies which show the superiority of native forests to alien and introduced forests to absorb and store water.


Healthy Watersheds Ensure Our Water for Life

<http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/.../Watershed...>

In these uncertain times of global climate change we must use our limited resources wisely. Desalinization plants that create fresh water from sea water are costly and cannot possibly provide water economically for agriculture and to keep the golf courses and mountains green.

Protecting native forests and enhancing their ability to recharge our aquifers is the least expensive way to secure our future source of fresh water. A stable source of funding is needed to properly manage our watersheds for future generations. Please provide general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and continue to allocate a percentage of the conveyance tax to DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund. Mahalo.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Yuen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan Yuen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 12:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: edward.g.bohlen@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Bohlen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support general funding for the DLNR programs in the proposed SB 1299 HD 1, but oppose eliminating dedicated funding for the Natural Area Reserve Fund to support the ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, rare and endangered species conservation, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

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HEARING ON 8APRIL 2015, 2:00 PM, RM. 308

COMMITTEES ON FINANCE

Re. SB 1299 PROPOSED HD1, RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES.

Dear Chairperson Luke and Representatives,

I have serious objections to portions of the proposed HD1, particularly those which eliminate dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax (Section 3, Par 247-7). Such is needed to provide protection and continuity of protection programs for the Islands' beleaguered natural resources.

I do support the portion of HD1 which provides general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7 through 17. The latter also requires the aforementioned dedicated funding in order to maintain the necessary conservation programs. Please make sure the bill reported out of your committee contains both of these funding portions intact with their same funding levels.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony,

Rick Warshauer, Volcano

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 12:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: miwa.tamanaha@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miwa Tamanaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write in SUPPORT of general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and OPPOSE the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: 2kalkout@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth A Likout	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT funds for the DLNR, sections 7-17...But I am adamantly OPPOSED to the Elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR Natural Area Reserve Fund and the Important Programs it Supports with a Percentage of the Conveyance Tax...We Must Continue to Preserve and Protect these Ecological Sensitive Islands....this Can Not Be Done without Adequate Funding....PONO!!!

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wendygibson9@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Although I support general funds for DLNR programs (in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1---I oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports. Please do not undo 20 years of dedicated funding for the protection of ceded lands. Funding cuts will affect people of all ages, especially the Youth Conservation Corp.

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the use of general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and opposing the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pheimuli@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Heimuli	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I STRONGLY OPPOSE SECTION 3 of this bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports including the Watershed Programs and the Youth Conservation Corps. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SECTIONS 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 to support the general funds for DLNR programs. ALOHA 'ĀINA! Let's make progress in sustaining what's left of Hawai'i's natural areas and keep our youth here in Hawai'i, working the 'Āina and making good decisions of it that will effect their generation and the generations to come! Mālama! Pua Heimuli

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: DonnaBall7591@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Ball	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I'm writing to request that you please support the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1. I oppose Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important watershed protection programs it supports. Please continue to allocate a percentage of the conveyance tax to DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund. Mahalo, Donna Ball

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: greenhi3@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phil Barnes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I would urge you to reject SB 1299 in it's current form. The Natural Area Reserve program is one of the more important programs currently being run by the state. This bill restricts the funding necessary to maintain these pristine resources. With the emphasis on watershed protection that the state is currently undertaking the NARS areas become even more important. Most are located in the headlands of all islands water supplies. Please amend or kill this bill.

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CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN
P.O. Box 5
Ninole, Hawai'i 96773
Telephone: (808) 963-6966
e-mail: chrisyuenz@hotmail.com

April 7, 2015

**TESTIMONY OPPOSING PROVISIONS OF SB1299 PROPOSED HD1
TAKING AWAY DEDICATED FUNDING FROM THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES**

Rep. Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I oppose the provisions of SB1299, proposed House Draft 1 that would take away the dedicated conveyance tax funding for the Natural Area Reserve System. This funding is crucial for the long-term stability of this very important program. Removing it would be a step backward from Hawai'i's commitment to environmental protection.

Our environmental programs have long suffered from a lack of funding. The NARF has at least provided a reliable basis for a program that needs a long-term reliable funding source, because it protects rare ecosystems that can never be restored if they are lost.

This move to take dedicated funding away from the Natural Area Reserve System, coming after it passed HB500, drastically cutting several DLNR programs, including the NARS, raises some serious questions about the leadership of the House Finance Committee and its commitment to environmental protection.

Please retain the funding for environmental programs passed in the Senate budget, and please drop this misguided effort to take the dedicated funds from the Natural Area Reserves.

Yours truly,

Chris Yuen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:48 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: reynolds.lara@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lara Reynolds	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing to ask that you support the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and to oppose Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports. Please uphold the conveyance tax funding of the Natural Area Reserve Fund in perpetuity and increase the ceiling to provide greater protection for our critically important natural resource base.

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finance1-Kim

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: auntyaina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fund DLNR !

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia K.L. Rezendes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and members of the Finance Committee: I am opposed to the elimination of funds for the Natural Area Reserve Fund from a portion of the conveyance tax. It is crucial that we continue to fund this effort to continue to maintain and improve on some of our natural treasures, i.e. Ka`ena Point NAR, and Pahole NAR as both of these provide vibrant habitats in their respective areas of the island. Without these vibrant habitats, Laysan albatross and shearwaters at Ka`ena might no longer be able to nest there and provide another source of continuing the increase to the population of these native sea birds. Pahole could see the reduction or elimination of various plants limited to the Wai`anae range which provide a healthy Hawaiian forest which directly affects our drinking water resources. I would urge your favorable inclination to continue to fund the Natural Area Reserve System with a portion of the funds from the conveyance taxes as has been established with support from the public over the years. Mahalo for your consideration. Cynthia K.L. Rezendes

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dan.nellis@dole.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM
Attachments: sb1299hd1testimony-040715.pdf

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Nellis	Dole Food Co. Hawaii	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support Sections 7-14; oppose proposed language for Section 3 that eliminates conveyance tax funding for DLNR NARS Fund. Please fund NARS Fund via conveyance tax.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 4:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: janwiz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Wizinowich	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and opposing the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. Please don't undo 20 years of protection for important conservation lands and programs.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 4:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tcolleencole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Cole	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee, I am writing to support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1. I am strongly opposed to the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. By statute, the NAR Fund receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System, including the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve at the summit. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, Watershed Partnerships, rare and endangered species protection, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. These are great programs for the people, who fought for this dedicated funding because historically the legislature was unable to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for our critical native forest and watershed resources. The NAR Fund was created in the 1990s and initially included funding for conservation on private land. In 2005, after years of hard work and strong grassroots support, the ceded land reserves were included in the programs benefiting from dedicated funding from the NAR Fund (this was CCH's, KAHEA's, and Earthjustice's Kokua Bill of the early 2000s). A Please show your support of Hawaii's precious natural resources which can never be replaced, which supports all life in these islands, and which we are all charged with protecting. Mahalo, Colleen Cole Volcano

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Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua'i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua'i Ranch LLC, Lihue Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

LATE

"The Mission of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members."

The Testimony of the Kauai Watershed Alliance
Commenting on S.B. 1299 RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00 PM, Room 308

The Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA) supports funding from all sources to provide funding for DLNR and watershed protection.

However, the KWA believes it to be prudent not to change this statute as proposed in S.B. 1299. The NAR Fund receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. These are great programs for the people, who fought for this dedicated funding because historically the legislature was unable to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for our critical native forest and watershed resources.

Please do not make any changes to the long-standing dedicated funding provided to the Natural Area Reserve Fund to support the ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

The KWA opposes the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. These funds are also leveraged and matched by private and federal moneys!

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Chipper Wichman, Past Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 4:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jbrunger@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Brunger	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support funding for Natural Area Reserves and oppose the elimination of dedicated funding to the Natural Area Reserve Fund. What are you, a bunch of Carleton Chings? The Hawaiian islands are home to some of the most precious natural resources in the world and you don't want to protect them? Get out of your air-conditioned condo in Honolulu and take a hike in the mountains. Please continue to support funding to protect our aina.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 4:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: MSMatson@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Matson	O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy	Oppose	No

Comments: We strongly oppose any elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: buckleyw@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Buckley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I support all sections in this bill except section 3. Please restore dedicated funding to the NARF

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April 7, 2015

Sylvia Luke, Chair of the House Finance Committee

RE: SB 1299, HD 1

Hearing: Wednesday, April 8 2:00pm

Oppose

We support most sections of SB1299, but are opposed to Section 3 in HD1 which would repeal the allocation of a portion of the conveyance tax to the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF). Please restore the wording that would continue the dedicated funding for protection of our natural areas and the administration of several key conservation programs in Hawaii.

We understand that the goal of this legislature, in this moment, is to create a situation in which the NAR system (NARS) is allocated general funds on an annual basis to meet their needs. The problem is that each year, as administrations, legislative priorities, and revenues change, the NARS and the associated programs from the NARF are left in a state of financial insecurity that the legislature over a decade ago recognized as being unhealthy for these fragile lands. That is why the Senate ordered the formation of a working group in 2000, to seek the best ways to create a dedicated source of finding for the NARS. The quote below is taken from that report (bold added):

"(DLNR) had been requested by SCR 143 HD 1, to convene a working group (Group) to identify potential sources of permanent dedicated funding for Hawaii's Natural Area Reserves System (NARS)...The Group, composed of invited representatives of involved agencies and citizen organizations, met 5 times in the summer and fall. After much productive research, exchange of ideas and philosophies...nine potential permanent dedicated funding sources were identified and rated in following order of preference: [1.] the Conveyance Tax..."

-NAR Funding Working Group Report to the Legislature, 2000

Clearly, much work and thought went into this determination, and the legislature wisely followed the recommendations of their own working group. In 2005, the State celebrated the establishment of the conveyance funding for the NARS, which received its first funding from the NARF in 2007. No one can deny that the programs funded by the NARF have done amazing work in the last 7 years: expanding outreach to the residents of our islands to encourage a conservation ethic, consistently improving the protection of our "best" remaining natural spaces, offering opportunities for our young people, and protecting our freshwater supply, among so many other accomplishments.

The NARF report to the legislature one year ago (2014) states (bold added):

"The dedicated funding provided by the NARF has been critical for the sustained and continuous management needed to protect natural areas. The NARF also has allowed staff to provide matching funds and aggressively pursue alternate funding via grant state, federal and private funding opportunities. These grants allow staff to maintain the

conservation progress made the last few years due to Act 156, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2005 (Legacy Land Conservation Act)."

Clearly the conveyance tax allocation is working, and great outcomes have been made possible because of it. We support our partners in the Natural Area Reserve System, the Watershed Partnerships, the Youth Conservation Corps, and all others who have been able to utilize this small but consistent funding stream to do great things for the people and lands of our state.

Please restore Section 3 of HB1299 and continue to fund the Natural Area Reserve Fund through 25% of the conveyance tax, as was directed by the legislature in 2005.

Thank you,
Springer Kaye
Manager

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 4:56 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lynettewilliams@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynette Williams	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, I SUPPORT ONLY the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and STRONGLY OPPOSE Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports. Mahalo, Lynette Williams

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To whom it may concern!

Although I support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1—I want to make it clear that I oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

Please do not undo 20 years of dedicated funding for the protection of ceded lands. Funding cuts will affect people of all ages, especially the Youth Conservation Corp.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:38 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: ymakaha@gmail.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshio Akaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony for SB 1299 Proposed HD1 I am writing to support the allocation of general funds to the Department of Land and natural Resources (DLNR) programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and to oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund with a percentage of the conveyance tax. For the past 18 years I have been hiking to remote parts of the island to photograph the native plants and animals of the Hawaiian Islands. I have a blog – Hawaiian Forest. Com – which documents some of the rarest and most endangered species on the planet. In 2013, I was appointed to the State of Hawaii's Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission which oversees issues relating to the most biologically sensitive and geologically interesting lands owned by the State of Hawaii. Almost daily we hear in the national media that California is in a state of emergency with only one year's water supply left. While the situation is not nearly as dire in Hawaii, researchers at the University of Hawaii have determined that the Hawaiian Islands have been undergoing a drying trend since 1978. Less rainfall expected for the Hawaiian Islands according to scientists <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=5724> With less rainfall anticipated in the coming decades, the ability of the land to capture and retain water becomes increasingly important. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply has conducted long term studies which show the superiority of native forests to alien and introduced forests to absorb and store water. Healthy Watersheds Ensure Our Water for Life

<http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/.../Watershed...> In these uncertain times of global climate change we must use our limited resources wisely. Desalinization plants that create fresh water from sea water are costly and cannot possibly provide water economically for agriculture and to keep the golf courses and mountains green. Protecting native forests and enhancing their ability to recharge our aquifers is the least expensive way to secure our future source of fresh water. A stable source of funding is needed to properly manage our watersheds for future generations. Please provide general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and continue to allocate a percentage of the conveyance tax to DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund. Mahalo.

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HALEAKALA RANCH

• EST. MAUI 1888 •

LATE

Testimony of Haleakalā Ranch
Commenting on SB 1299 HD 1 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues
House Finance Committee
April 7, 2015

Haleakalā Ranch strongly urges the House Finance Committee to not repeal the 25% of conveyance tax revenue dedicated to DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund.

Haleakalā Ranch is a member of the East Maui Watershed Partnership (EMWP). EMWP has been managing large areas within East Maui's mauka watersheds since the Partnership was formed in 1992. The landowners and partners of the East Maui Watershed Partnership have committed to this important effort because the forested watersheds of Hawaii are the source of most of our islands' drinking water supply. Fresh water is a finite resource, and is one of the most important natural resources for our health, well-being, economy, and special way of life.

Funding from the State of Hawaii's NAR Fund is strategically leveraged with other public and private funding sources. This has enabled the East Maui Watershed Partnership to construct over 15 miles of fence and remove feral animals from approximately 12,000 acres of the highest priority watershed areas. EMWP has also worked to improve public access for hunters to the lower portions of the watershed. Haleakalā Ranch is currently collaborating with other Partners to maintain these management efforts, and remove some of the highest priority, invasive plant populations. To maintain these investments, continued support via the NAR fund is necessary to protect this vital resource.

Haleakalā Ranch was alarmed by the drastic cuts to funding to watershed protection in the proposed version of SB1299 HD1 and urges you to:

- Rescind Section 3 of the proposed SB1299 HD 1 that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.
- Maintain Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB1299 HD 1 which would provide general fund appropriations, including \$5M for HISC, \$1.5M for wildfire response, and \$2.1M for DOCARE.

DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund is a primary source of funding for the State's Natural Area Reserve and Forest Reserve program, the Natural Area Partnership program, the Forest Stewardship program, Watershed Partnerships, and the Youth Conservation Corps. Please consider these comments on the proposed SB1299 HD1 to protect past investments and sustain these essential programs.

Respectfully,

J. Scott Meidell,
Haleakalā Ranch
Vice President and General Manager

LATE

Testimony

I, Poema Pescaia, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The funding could help the KIRC's efforts to conserve the resources of the Reserve and also help educate the public in the importance of that 'aina and ultimate goal that KIRC is trying to achieve. Please support the proposal in order to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of Kanaloa, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come.

I have worked with the KIRC and I have seen the difference through the years. I have seen the changes with the growth of native planting sites to the bountiful coastal ecosystems. Although the island has come a long way, this 'aina is still much in need of kokua and aloha. Without the KIRC's stewardship over the island I don't see the progress continuing. The KIRC is that connection for a lot of volunteer groups and dedicated individuals like myself to come and continue to malama Kanaloa. Please don't sever that connection.

Malama,

Poema Pescaia

Kanaloa Volunteer and former KIRC intern

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015
2:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1299, PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES**

Senate Bill 1299, Proposed House Draft 1 proposes to set maximum amounts to be distributed to various non-general funds from the Conveyance Tax. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of the bill noting that the bill provides funds to several divisions within the Department. The Department nonetheless continues to believe that special funds are a better way of funding government programs than general funds because special funds offer better opportunities to make long range plans, offer matching funds to grant programs, and provide for a relatively steady income stream.**

The Department offers the following comments on the budget amounts proposed in this measure. These comments are based on the Department's most current understanding of House Bill 500, House Draft 1, and the understanding that funding in Senate Bill 1299, Proposed House Draft 1 zeros out Fiscal Year 2015 base funding for those programs under the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife that are the beneficiary of conveyance taxes revenues

In keeping with our Executive Budget request, the Department asks that the total budget amount proposed in SECTION 5 for LNR 407 (Natural Area Reserves and Watershed Management) be increased to \$12,200,000. This would be consistent with our request to raise the Natural Area Reserve Fund ceiling by \$5,000,000 and would take into account overall program needs of LNR 407.

Because this bill proposes to remove the deposit of conveyance tax revenues into the Natural Area Reserve Fund, which partially funds programs under LNR 172 (Forest Resource Management and

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE

Development), the Department asks that the amount of funding for LNR 172 be increased to \$5,400,000, which is in keeping with the total amount of the Executive Budget request.

As the Natural Area Reserve Fund also provides funding for programs under LNR 402 (Native Resources and Fire Protection), the Department requests that the amount of funding for LNR 402 be increased to \$4,200,000, which is in keeping with the total amount of the Executive Budget request. In addition, the current language in SECTION 9 limits spending of these funds to fire, natural disaster and emergency response equipment. The Department proposes the following language:

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the native resources and fire protection program (LNR 402).

The Department notes that the \$5,000,000 proposed for invasive species control in SECTION 13 was inadvertently identified to be placed within LNR 407. The correct reference should be for LNR 402, which is where the Hawaii Invasive Species Council is located. In addition, SECTION 13 should specifically reference the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. The Department proposes the following language:

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal 2015-2016 and the same some or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to prevent the introduction of invasive species, implement invasive species control, conduct research and outreach, and eradicate established invasive species; provided that the department of land and natural resources shall jointly work with other agencies and the community; and provided further that portions of this appropriation may be transferred to other state departments to be expended for activities related to the statewide invasive species prevention, control, research, and outreach partnership program.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources as directed by the Hawaii invasive species council.

Lastly, the Department requests that the amount for the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Co-Manager in SECTION 7 be increased to \$65,000 to be consistent with current salary needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pinky@lava.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

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SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Thompson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Pile on the support to DLNR to enhance, protect, honor the nature of our Hawaii -- concrete and development won't do it. To eliminate the Natural Area Reserve Fund would be a bad mistake. Please do not do that. Mahalo and aloha, Laura Thompson

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	uH Biology Alumni Association	Support	No

Comments: I support general funds for DLNR programs in sections 7 through 17 of the proposed SB1299 hD1; but I strongly oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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Cc: tom.ranker@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

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SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Ranker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am adamantly opposed to SB 1299 Proposed HD1. I almost cannot imagine a worse piece of legislation for the protection of native Hawaiian ecosystems and threatened and endangered species. I fully support the designation of general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and strongly oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. Thank you.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To remove the fixed percent resources from the Natural Area Reserves is an act of willful neglect. I have watched *Achatinella fulgens*, *Partulina semicarinata* and *Partulina variabilis* go extinct from the wild in a few short years--how many birds and other invertebrates and plants are we at risk of losing? Our Natural Area Reserves are not an afterthought. They are the ark to save our surviving biodiversity. Hawaii is the epicenter of the mass extinction event on this planet, and to not recognize and react to the gravity of that is fundamentally shameful. The millions of dollars to DLNR that have been added from another bill are useful, but do not substitute the needed conveyance funds. Inappropriate and hewa!

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bill@puna.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not delete funding to manage the forest reserve system. elimination of dedicated funding for the NAR Fund is a huge step backwards. Please don't let that happen!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: michele.mclean@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele McLean	County of Maui / KIRC	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in support of SB1299, HD1 proposed, to add funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. My name is Michele Chouteau McLean and I serve as chair of the KIRC. As the Deputy Planning Director for the County of Maui, I also serve as KIRC's Maui County representative. A continuous round-the-clock 24/7 presence on Kaho`olawe is needed to ensure the protection of the general public because 25 percent of the island remains uncleared of unexploded ordnance. Hawai`i's people benefit every day from KIRC's Restoration, Ocean Resources and Cultural programs, as they have made great strides in restoring and protecting Kaho`olawe's native ecosystems and cultural resources. Thousands of volunteers from throughout the state have contributed to these efforts over the years; their work should be honored by allowing these programs to continue. The Legislature has considered a variety of funding mechanisms for the KIRC this session; however you see fit to support the KIRC, please ensure the continued restoration and management of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve (the island and 90 square miles of its waters). Full funding of no less than \$2.7 million annually will fulfill the State's commitment to restore and protect Kaho`olawe. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: Andrea Buckman <andrea@lhwrp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Andrea Buckman
Subject: Testimony on SB1229 HD1



Aloha,

I am writing to strongly urge the House Finance Committee to not repeal the 25% of conveyance tax revenue dedicated to the DLNR Natural Area Reserve Fund.

The Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership works to protect and restore critical native ecosystems that provide essential water, ecological, economic, recreational, spiritual, and cultural resources to our community and beyond. LHWRP and its associated landowner, partners, vendors, contractors, volunteers, and community groups directly benefit from these funds, which have been applied toward protecting and restoring thousands of acres of native watershed forest on leeward Haleakala. LHWRP works to control priority invasive species, plant native seedlings of ecological and cultural importance, expand rural economic opportunities for regional landowners, and encourage community stewardship via outreach and education.

The funds that the NAR fund provide have been used to initiate projects that require perpetual monitoring, maintenance, and management in order to be effective. In addition, funds are leveraged several times over, and provide critical economic basis for local people to develop careers in conservation, plant propagation, fencing, and multiple private sector businesses that have developed as a direct result of the recognition that protecting our irreplaceable native ecosystems has provided.

I am disappointed in the shortsighted vision that the proposed cuts represent. I respectfully ask that you:

- Rescind section 3 of the proposed SB1299 HD 1 that eliminates dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's NAR fund and the important programs it supports.
- maintain sections 7-14 of the proposed SB1299 HD 1 which provide general fund appropriation, including \$5M for HISC, \$1.5M for wildfire response, and \$2.1M for DOCARE.
- Consider the ramifications that cuts in funding for the State's Natural Area Reserve and Forest Reserve Program, the Natural Area Partnership Program, the Forest Stewardship Program, Watershed Partnership, and the Youth Conservation Corps represent for our future natural and cultural resources, economy, and quality of life.

As the Project Coordinator for LHWRP, I truly appreciate the previous investment the State has provided for Watershed Partnerships, ISC's, DLNR, and the multiple other conservation groups that collectively protect these resources for generations to come. I encourage you to honor the intent of the legislation passed more than 20 years ago, which recognized the need to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for critical native forest and watershed resources and in response secured dedicated funding for these programs.

Respectfully,

Andrea Buckman

Andrea Buckman
Project Coordinator
Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership

3620 Baldwin Ave., Suite 206B, Makawao HI 96768

www.lhwrp.org

(808) 573-8989

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bdshafer@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

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SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Shafer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 9:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: panther_dave@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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finance1-Kim

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sioakimi@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sandi ioakimi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the proposed HD1 to SB 1299, a version put forth at the eleventh hour and with a single public hearing before the House Finance Committee because it would undo more than 20 years of dedicated funding to the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund (NAR Fund). The proposed HD 1 didn't even go to any subject committees for public hearings, which is not the way the legislative process is supposed to work. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System, including the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve at the summit. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, Watershed Partnerships, rare and endangered species protection, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. Such last-minute changes to bills without the necessary hearings is happening more and more often in the legislature, and only adds to the negative regard with which it is held by the general public.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 9:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: marigold_zoll@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marigold Zoll	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support allocation of general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7- 17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1. However, I strongly oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alannakagawa@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Nakagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Users of dedicated funding need to be held accountable I support the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. If funds are need they should be justified and use needs to be accounted for.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 7:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: michaelbishop1981@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Bishop	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing to support the allocation of general funds to the Department of Land and natural Resources (DLNR) programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and to oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 7:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kauaimichelle@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Clark	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. Eliminating the dedicated fund would undo more than 20 years of investment into Hawaii's most unique ecosystems . These places are very special and are an irreplaceable component of Hawaii's natural heritage.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 7:20 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Members of the Senate Finance committee, Please vote to oppose this position against funding of the Natural Reserve Areas, specifically section 3 of the proposed language. The State's funding of our NAR system is urgent and anyone supporting this is voicing their personal view that Hawaii's natural resource protection, which includes watershed, native species and ecosystem protection, is the lowest priority on the Hawaii funding food chain. Oppose this bill please. James 'Kimo' Falconer President MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

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Cc: c_noneza@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmela Noneza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 8:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou, I support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and strongly oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. The Natural Area Reserve Fund supports ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, rare and endangered species conservation, and the Youth Conservation Corps. Angela Huntemer MEd

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Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 8:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Takamine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair and the House Committee on Finance, SB 1299 proposed HD1 will cut dedicated funding to DLNR's Natural Area Reserves Fund (NAR), which receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year: • DLNR uses this funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System, including the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve at the summit. • DLNR uses this funding to support public-private conservation through Natural Area Partnerships, Forest Stewardship Programs, and Watershed Partnerships. • DLNR uses this funding for rare and endangered species protection. • DLNR uses this funding for development of future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. Respectfully, Wayne Takamine Honolulu

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 7:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: julianemoto@googlemail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

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SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Nemoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Council Members, Here is a good phrase you can submit as "comments only" - I, Julia Nemoto SUPPORT ONLY the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and STRONGLY OPPOSE Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

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Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 6:07 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: makikirandy@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please preserve the dedicated funding for the Natural Area Reserve Fund. It is critical in maintaining our Natural Area Reserves and supports important programs with a percentage of the conveyance tax. Retain general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1. Mahalo.

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Cc: mhesketts@mac.com
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SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marvin Heskett	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

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Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I SUPPORT general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7- 17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and OPPOSE the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. Also, I think it's despicable that we are giving tax breaks to the wealthy, tax breaks and subsidies to corporations, giving out leases for a dollar a year or leasing public ag lands for \$50 per acre - all the while cutting services and programs that are vital to residents, not to mention how messed up our tax structure is with the poorest individuals paying the most and the wealthy, the least. These problems lay squarely at the feet of our legislators and with the internet, more people are becoming more aware of what's going on.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: rclamont@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert La Mont	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am very concerned with preserving native forests and preventing the devastation brought by invasive plants and animals. I generally support this measure but I ask you to please change Section 3 to maintain the portion of the real estate conveyance tax to be dedicated to Natural Area Reserves. Robert La Mont Pahoa

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 11:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tsuneyos@lycos.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Tsuneyoshi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Chair Luke and Members: Subject: Commenting on S.B. 1299 Proposed HD1 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues, House Committee on Finance Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00PM, Room 308 I support the general funds for Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1; however, I oppose Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF) and the important programs it supports. It is important for the state to have dedicated funding to protect essential watershed areas that recharge our groundwater aquifers so that everyone can enjoy high quality drinking water and enjoy Hawaii's unique flora and fauna. Please do not cut the dedicated 25% of conveyance tax revenue for the DL NR's NARF. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on Senate Bill 1299 HD1.

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LATE

Testimony of Kimberly Thayer

Commenting on S.B. 1299 Proposed HD1
Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00PM, Room 308

Aloha mai kākou,

As a 4th generation kama'aina with a young family, and an employee of the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership (WMMWP), I humbly voice my support for general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB1299 HD1 along with my opposition to the elimination of dedicated conveyance tax funding for DLNR's Natural Area Reserve (NAR) Fund. The NAR Fund supports key programs like ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, rare and endangered species conservation, and the Youth Conservation Corps. I shudder at the thought of what Hawaii would look like without these programs in place. What is the legacy we will leave for our keiki?

At WMMWP, a *significant* portion of our funding for watershed protection comes from DLNR's Watershed Partnerships Program (which is funded by the NAR Fund), and the same goes for our partners in conservation. This funding enables us to build fences that exclude destructive ungulates (pigs, goats, deer); combat water-hogging invasive species like strawberry guava; monitor the health of our forests and streams; educate our community about the importance of our native forests; and encourage volunteer stewardship. The young men and women on our WMMWP field crew do this work because of their love for the mountain, the forests, the streams, the sights, sounds, and smells, and the multitude of plants and animals that are unique to Hawaii. They have an innate desire to protect all of it—for their well being, for their families, and for the communities they live in—and they find fulfillment in this each day. The cuts in DLNR funding would *severely* cripple our crew and slash our capabilities.

Hawaii's native forests and watersheds are where all life in Hawaii begins. The mountains and forests catch fog, mist, and rain clouds that provide *all* of the fresh water that we all depend on *every day*. The verdant mountain slopes are the picturesque backdrops that attract millions of visitors each year, bolstering the State's economy. The elements of our native forests—birds, trees, ferns, snails, and mosses, even the rocks, mists, and rains—are intimately intertwined with Hawaiian culture itself. Young families like mine cherish days and nights spent hiking and camping in the mountains, loving our forests, and instilling this love in our keiki. Deep down, we all find happiness in the health of our natural environment. We need to give DLNR the strength to protect all of this for the future and well-being of Hawaii Nei.

With your voice and with your vote, you have the power to help safeguard the resources that sustain us. Please restore conveyance tax funding to DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund.

Mahalo nui loa

LATE

2015, April 7th

Aloha kakou,

I, Nadine Awana, support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.

...

The funding included for the KIRC in the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 could help the KIRC not only in its efforts to conserve the unique resources of the Reserve but also help educate the public in the importance of its mission.

...

Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299 in order to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come.

...

As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho`olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299, which includes funds for Kaho`olawe.

...

As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system.

...

Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho`olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work.

...

Kaho`olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support the proposed HD1 amended version of SB1299.

Mahalo for taking time out to review my written testimony. My aloha and prayer for each of you for God to guide you in your decision making.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Nadine Awana

Nadine Awana

Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: delwanders@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
delberbigier	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I SUPPORT ONLY the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and STRONGLY OPPOSE Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

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Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

The Testimony of Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership
Commenting on S.B. 1299 RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00 PM, Room 308

LATE

The Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership supports funding from all sources to provide funding for DLNR and watershed protection.

The Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership has been a part of the Kauai Watershed Association (KWA) since its formation in 2003. As a landowner on Kauai, it is an honor to be a part of such an upstanding group, which has helped to protect and conserve our most vital assets- water, and our unique native plants and animal species. Please help continue this work through dedicated funding!

The Kauai Watershed Alliance has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kauai since 2003. We as members make up a diverse group of public and private entities that own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture fresh water—our most precious resource.

We believe it to be prudent not to change this statute as proposed in S.B. 1299. The NAR Fund receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. These are great programs for the people, who fought for this dedicated funding because historically the legislature was unable to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for our critical native forest and watershed resources.

Please do not make any changes to the long-standing dedicated funding provided to the Natural Area Reserve Fund to support the ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

The Ben Dyre FLP and KWA both oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax. These funds are also leveraged and matched by private and federal moneys! Thank you for your consideration and support to protect our resources for the future generations!

Sincerely,

Holly Dyre
General Partner
Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 9:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stibbardm003@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Primacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair and Members, I ask that you support general funds for DLNR's programs but oppose eliminating dedicated funding for the Natural Area Reserve Fund. Your support for this fund guarantees the continuance of support for watershed management, endangered species protection, ceded land reserves and the Youth Conservation Corp. These programs are vital to Hawaii. Mahalo nui, Margaret Primacio Kahuku

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Cc: willi_wili@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Haines	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I support general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1, but I oppose the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund with a percentage of the conveyance tax. I oppose eliminating dedicated funding for the Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports, including the ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, rare and endangered species conservation, and the Youth Conservation Corps. Our native plants and animals are some of our most important resources, and this would eliminate funding for important programs that protect them. Mahalo, William Haines

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SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Metzler	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support general funds for the DLNR programs in the proposed SB 1299 HD 1, but I oppose eliminating dedicated funding for the Natural Area Reserve Fund. These funds are critical to support the ceded land reserves, public-private conservation partnerships, watershed management and protection, rare and endangered species onservation, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

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Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: thorneabbott@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thorne Abbott	Coastal Planners, LLC	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not cut funding to the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund (NAR Fund). This fund is extremely important to perpetuating our cultural and natural heritage for today's and tomorrow's residents and visitors, and is required to ensure a healthy aina.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: faith.inmannarahari@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Inman-Narahari	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee (FIN) is proposing to repeal the 25% of conveyance tax revenue dedicated to the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund (NAR Fund). The NAR Fund is the primary source of funding for the State Natural Area Reserves and Forests Reserves, Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, Watershed Partnerships, rare species protection, and the Youth Conservation Corps. FIN is proposing to amend a bill (SB 1299 Proposed HD1) with a single public hearing in a way that would undo more than 20 years of dedicated funding to the NAR Fund and the DLNR programs it supports. Even though the draft bill proposes some general funding for the programs covered by the NAR Fund, it would be ~\$7M less than what DLNR has requested for these programs in FY16 and the repeal of the conveyance tax dedicated source of funding for the NAR Fund would be a huge loss and a huge step backwards. More than 20 years ago, the dedicated funding for these programs was secured because historically the legislature was unable to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for critical native forest and watershed resources. The difficult thing with FIN's proposed HB1299 HD1 is that the committee is baiting the bill with a bunch of other general fund appropriations, including \$5M for HISC, \$1.5M for wildfire response, \$2.1M for DOCARE, and \$1.5M for Kaho'olawe. I am writing to support approving the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and oppose Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

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Cc: Cbrosius@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Brosius	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please see attached.

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LATE

8 April 2015

TO: Finance Committee Chair and Members

FROM: Dr. William Moekahi Steiner, General Manager and cofounder, Hawaii Oil Seed Producers LLC and Former Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management and Former Director, USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, all Hawaii Institutions

I write with a background of vast knowledge and experience in working in Hawaii ecosystems from the native to the agricultural. I write, then, in protest of the changes made in SB 1299, HD 1, as proposed. This bill has last minute changes relating to funding of programs of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii that moves dedicated funding coming from the state conveyance tax to the General Fund where competition for funds will be much higher. It also reduces the stipulated amount now dedicated to the DLNR for its programs. Not counting the direct conveyance fund payment of \$6,800,000 to the land conservation fund I calculate a cut of around <20% in funding to the DLNR as a result of SB 1299. These cuts come at a time when DLNR will be meeting extreme challenges to its programs of recovery, restoration, protection and management of Hawaii ecosystems and watersheds. With a population that continues to grow, new challenges arising from global climate warming effects, and existing challenges related to invasive species continuing to dominate the recovery scene for endangered native Hawaiian species, we can ill afford to reduce DLNR support now.

Placing reliance for DLNR funding in the General Fund is a dangerous precedent. This opens DLNR programs to competition from many other programs that rely on General Funds and can only lead to less funding in the future. Fragile Hawaiian ecosystems that provide us our water resources, buttress our tourist trade and underpin our cultural heritage, demand that we protect them and make sure funding to save and preserve these systems is dedicated and tightly in place. Although the bill calls for funding in section 2 (a) (2) (A-F) from forest products and activities to go toward dedicated programs, there is no accounting for how much these activities bring in and therefore no way to judge how dependable they are for DLNR program funding. We must provide more security for these systems or we will suffer dire consequences in the future. We are not open to endless development in Hawaii; what development we have is dependent on the water and dollars these systems attract to create jobs and provide health to our ways of living. Please do all you can to deny further weakening of our ecosystems in the name of a developmental model we can ill afford.

I may be contacted at wwmsteiner@gmail.com or at my cell phone number (808) 294-0750 for any further discussion.

Sincerely

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

William W. M. Steiner, Ph.D

LATE

Testimony of Bryce Thayer

Commenting on S.B. 1299 Proposed HD1 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2:00PM, Room 308

Aloha

I am writing in support of the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1 and in opposition of Section 3 of the bill that would eliminate dedicated conveyance tax funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports.

The elimination of this funding would be shortsighted. The programs affected are the reason Hawaii continues to be a top destination in the world and a wonderful place to live. Nothing else matters if we aren't able to take care of our natural resources – the state would be CRIPPLED without them.

Mahalo

Bryce Thayer



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774
Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@Hawaiiiforest.org
Website: www.Hawaiiiforest.org

LATE

April 8, 2015

TESTIMONY ON SB 1299 HD 1
RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES

Aloha,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify and provide comments on SB 1299 HD1 - Supporting general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17.

Hawaii Forest Industry Association would like to support general funds for DLNR programs Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD 1. The people worked very hard for many years to secure dedicated funding for the ceded land reserves and other environmental programs covered by the NAR Fund. Even though there is some general funding proposed for the programs covered by the Natural Area Reserve Fund, it would be several million dollars less than what DLNR and the Administration requested *AND the proposed elimination of the dedicated funding source for the NAR Fund is a huge loss and a huge step backwards*. By statute, the NAR Fund receives 25% of state real estate conveyance tax revenues each year. The DLNR uses that funding to support protecting ceded lands in the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System, including the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve at the summit. The NAR Fund also supports public-private conservation through the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, Watershed Partnerships, rare and endangered species protection, and future environmental leaders through the Youth Conservation Corps. These are great programs for the people, who fought for this dedicated funding because historically the legislature was unable to provide the consistent level of state general funds necessary to care for our critical native forest and watershed resources. The NAR Fund was created in the 1990s and initially included funding for conservation on private land. In 2005, after years of hard work and strong grassroots support, the ceded land reserves were included in the programs benefiting from dedicated funding from the NAR Fund (this was CCH's, KAHEA's, and Earthjustice's Kokua Bill of the early 2000s).

Sincerely,
Sophia Cabral-Maikui, Legislative Chair
Hawaii Forest Industry Association

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sophia@hawaiiiforest.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1299 on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

SB1299

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 8, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sophia cabral-maikui	Hawaii Forest Industry Association	Oppose	No

Comments: We at HFIA opposing the elimination of dedicated funding for the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
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LATE

THE SENATE
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 8, 2015
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308, State Capitol

S.B. No. 1299, Proposed HD1

Chairperson Luke, Vice Chairperson Nishimoto and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying behalf of the more than 2000 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society.

1. The Society opposes the elimination of dedicated funding for DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund and the important programs it supports with a percentage of the conveyance tax.
2. It supports keeping the general funds for DLNR programs in Sections 7-17 of the proposed SB 1299 HD1.

DLNR uses this funding to protect rare and endangered species and to support the Natural Area Reserve System and Forest Reserve System. It also uses this funding to support public-private conservation through Natural Area Partnerships, Forest Stewardship Programs, and Watershed Partnerships.

These conservation programs are essential to the mission of the Hawaii Audubon Society, which is to foster community values that result in protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawaii and the Pacific.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Linda Paul
President



LATE

The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
April 8, 2015
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1299 Proposed HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **opposes portions of the proposed SB 1299 HD1, Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues.**

CGAPS opposes Section 3, which would repeal dedicated funding for conservation work including watershed protection, invasive species work (including little fire ant and other high-impact species), Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps, native plant and animal protection, and much more.

Historically, legislators were supportive of finding dedicated funding mechanisms for programs and services where there is a nexus between the source and the program it supports.

This proposed bill is intended to (in part), *"Subject those agencies and programs to competition for limited public funds if the agencies or programs want more than the amount automatically distributed to their non-general funds."*

Funding to protecting 'ōhi'a (for example) cannot possibly compete against programs protecting public health, or educating kids. Agencies can only do so much to compete for funds, but legislators have a responsibility to ensure that government agencies have enough funds to take care of public trust resources. Special funds like those funded through a portion of the conveyance tax were a way to ensure that 'ōhi'a did not have to compete with kids for funds.

DLNR's General funds since 1996 has not kept up with inflation, or labor costs. For example, in 1996 DLNR received \$26,666,176 in General funds; in 2006 they received \$26,451,688, and in 2015, \$29,952,383. Clearly, legislators have not been able to deliver funding increases with the times. Yet DLNR has ADDED programs by utilizing Special funds like the Natural Area Reserves Fund via the conveyance tax, and with the matching 1:1 non-state dollars that many of its programs attract. These programs include the Watershed Partnerships and support for the Invasive Species Committees on each island, support for the Hawaii Ant Lab, and more. The repeal of S funds for conservation will have repercussions statewide this year, and for generations to come.

CGAPS supports Sections 7-14 of the proposed SB 1299 HD1, yet not at the cost of conveyance tax funding, but in addition to it. If reporting or projecting funding is an issue, those can easily be addressed. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

Department of Land and Natural Resources General Funds Received Fiscal Years 1996 - 2015	
Fiscal Year	General Funds
1996	26,666,176
1997	25,051,058
1998	27,489,211
1999	26,298,075
2000	25,644,643
2001	24,719,599
2002	25,158,881
2003	24,404,143
2004	26,109,133
2005	25,080,615
2006	26,451,688
2007	28,218,350
2008	34,258,380
2009	32,743,127
2010	26,715,951
2011	23,376,673
2012	26,715,205
2013	25,738,532
2014	31,250,400
2015	29,952,383

House Finance Committee

LATE

Re: SB 1299 Proposed HD1 8 March

Sierra Club opposes amending SB 1299 to **undo 20 years of dedicated funding to the DLNR's Natural Area Reserve Fund** since we strongly support conservation programs including the Natural Area Partnership Program, the Natural Area Reserves, the Watershed Partnerships Program, and the Youth Conservation Corps. These programs protect Hawaii's invaluable ecosystems and forested watersheds.

The legislature has wisely provided NARF funding for watershed protection and other natural resource conservation programs since 1991 as the development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas.

The Legislature has oversight of the NARF by setting a spending cap for the fund and requiring the Department to annually report to the Legislature the financial condition of the fund, including: receipts and expenditures for the fund for the previous fiscal year; and plans and management objectives for the next fiscal year.

Special funds are created to provide dedicated revenue streams for particular initiatives. For over 20 years the NARF has consistently and effectively provided funding for these vital conservation programs, hence meeting the stated intended purpose to protect and preserve Hawaii's unique natural resources.

The conservation programs listed above is vital to the economic and public health of the State (local food availability, watershed protection, unique cultural and natural resources, public safety, and nature education and recreation).

To succeed in the long term, most conservation projects require the dedicated funding provided by special funds. Based on that, the Legislature requires the departments to create a 5 year plan .

Mahalo,

Steven Lee Montgomery, Ph. D.

Sierra Club Conservation Committee

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